Development of Tourism in North East Region 460. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for the development of tourism in the picturesque States of the North-Eastern Region; and

(b) if so, the amount of funds allotted to each state of the North-Eastern Region during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism had set up a Task Force for development through Tourism in the North Eastern States. As per the recommendations of the Task Force, the Ministry of Tourism is giving high priority for the development and promotion of Tourism in the region.

(b) The funds are allotted to each State Based on the projects prioritised every year. During 97-98 the Ministry of Tourism sanctioned 49 projects amounting to Rs. 1217.72 lakhs to North Eastern States. For 98-99, Statewise detail of number of projects identified alongwith the estimated amount is given below:

State	No. of Projects	Amt. (in lakhs)
Assam	12	397.00
Arunachal	7	131.00
Pradesh	13	220.00
Manipur		
Meghalaya	15	180.00
Mizoram	8	165.00
Nagaland	10	200.00
Tripura	10	310.00

Financial Assistance for Development of tourism to N.E. States

461. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial assistance's given during the Eighth Five Year Plan to the State of North East for Tourism industry, State-wise;

(b) the tourist centres of each States of the North East Region so far developed by Government; and

(c) the fund allotted to each State of the North East Region for development of tourist industry in the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) The State wise details of financial assistance provided to North Eastern States is at statement-I, (see below)

(b) Development of tourist centres is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments, the Ministry of Tourism however extends financial assistance for tourism projects to State Governments in consultation with them. The Ministry of Tourism has provided assistance for 154 projects in the North Eastern states during Eighth Plan and 49 projects in the year 1997-98 as per details in statement I and II respectively.

(c) Each year, Ministry of Tourism, in consultation with State Governments, prioritises projects for Central Financial Assistance as the funds are not allocated in advance. 49 projects amounting to Rs. 1217.72 lakhs were sanctioned during 1997-98 (Statement-II) (see below). Ministry of Tourism has prioritised 75 projects for an amount of Rs. 1603 lakhs during 1998-99 for the North Eastern States.

Statement-I

Details of Central Financial Assistance to North East States Vllth Five Year Plan

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State	No. of Project Sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1.	Arunachal	18	155.28	90.75
2.	Assam	25	288.88	190.25
3.	Manipur	24	243.45	127.00
4.	Meghalaya	10	110.36	43.39
5.	Mizoram	32	458.77	274.09
6.	Nagaland	20	223.14	164.76
7.	Tripura	25	278.52	163.08
	TOTAL	154	1758.40	1053.32

Statement-II

Projects Sanctioned during 1997-98 for North Eastern States 1997-98

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State	No. of Project Sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1.	Arunachal	9	271.00	82.50
2.	Assam	12	288.88	94.20
3.	Manipur	5	186.11	56.35
4.	Meghalaya	5	85.70	28.05
5.	Mizoram	6	142.45	43.50
6.	Nagaland	4	116.90	40.58
7.	Tripura	8	126.68	40.16
	TOTAL	49	1217.72	385.34

Promotion of Adventure Tourism

462. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India still remains one of the poorly exploited countries in the world so far where adventure tourism is concerned;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith comparative figures of adventure tourists visiting India and other Asian countries;

(c) whether a convention of Indian Association of Tour Operators was held at Shivpuri;

(d) if so, the suggestions made by the participants to promote adventure tourism in the country; and